CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A system comprising:

a database;

a message server having no persistent state; and

a plurality of instances of an application server implementing a Java application model coupled in a star topology with the message server at a center of the star topology, the plurality of instances sharing the database.

2.   The system of Claim 1 wherein each instance comprises:

a dispatcher node; and

a plurality of server nodes.

3.   The system of Claim 2 wherein each server node comprises:

a java 2 enterprise edition (J2EE) engine.

4.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising:

a central lock server to provide cluster wide locks to the plurality of instances.

5.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the message server comprises:

a first data structure to store a list of connected clients; and

a second data structure and a list of services provided in the system.

6.   A computer readable storage media containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method comprising:

starting a central services node to provide at least one of a locking service and a messaging service;

starting a plurality of application server instances; and

organizing the application server instances into a cluster having star topology with the central services node at a center of the star topology.

7.   The computer readable storage media of Claim 6 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method further comprising:

sharing a database among the plurality of application server instances.

8.   The computer readable storage media of 6 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein starting a plurality of application server instances comprises:

starting, for each application server instance of the plurality, a dispatcher node and a plurality of server nodes.

9.   The computer readable storage media of Claim 6 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method further comprising:

starting a message server having no persistent state.

10.   The computer readable storage media of Claim 6 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method further comprising:

registering each application server with the messaging server.

11.   The computer readable storage media of Claim 6 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method further comprising:

conducting inter instance communication through the messaging service.

12.   The computer readable storage media of Claim 9 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method further comprising:

restarting the message server without state recovery responsive to a system failure.

13.   The computer readable storage media of Claim 10 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method further comprising:

notifying all registered instances from the message server when an additional instance joins the cluster.

14.   A system comprising:

means for organizing a plurality of application servers instances into a cluster having a star topology with a central services node at a center of the star topology;

means for sharing a storage resource across the cluster; and

means for performing centralized inter instances communication.

15.   The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

means for centralized locking of a resource within the cluster.

16.   The system of Claim 14 wherein the means for performing comprises:

a message server having no persistent state.

17.   The system of Claim 14 wherein the means for performing comprises:

means for registering instances; and

means for recording services provided in the cluster.

18.   A method comprising:

starting a central services node to provide at least one of a locking service and a messaging service;

starting a plurality of application server instances; and

organizing the application server instances into a cluster having star topology with the central services node at a center of the star topology.

19.   The method of Claim 18 further comprising:

sharing a database among the plurality of application server instances.

20.   The method of Claim 18 wherein starting a plurality of application server instances comprises:

starting, for each instance of the plurality, a dispatcher node and a plurality of server nodes.

21.   The method of Claim 18 wherein starting a central service node comprises:

   starting a message server having no persistent state.

22.   The method of Claim 18 wherein organizing comprises:

   registering each application server with the messaging server.

23.   The method of Claim 18 further comprising:

conducting inter instance communication through the messaging service.

24.   The method of Claim 21 further comprising:

restarting the message server without state recovery responsive to a system failure.

25.   The method of Claim 22 wherein organizing further comprises:

   notifying all registered instances from the message server when an additional instance joins the cluster.